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EDUCATION WEEK

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Council Calls for A New System of Standards, Tests

'Historic' Report Urges Reshaped Goals Panel

By Robert Rothman

WASHINGTON—Asserting that the current education system has produced expectations for student performance that are "simply too low," a Congressionally mandated panel last week called for high national standards for student achievement and a national system of assessments to gauge their attainment.

In its much-anticipated report, the National Council on Education Standards and Testing, a 32-member panel of educators, business leaders, and public officials, concludes that creating such standards and assessments is both highly desirable and feasible.

It proposes standards for schools and school systems as well as for students, and it recommends a two-part assessment system that would consist of individual student assessments and a large-scale sample, such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

The report recommends that the new system be overseen by the National Education Goals Panel—reconfigured to be politically balanced—together with a 21-member council it would appoint. The two bodies would evaluate and certify as "world class" standards and assessments that are devel-

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AP/Wide World

President Bush, who last week proposed a 27 percent increase in funding for the Head Start program, gets a tour of the Emily Harris Head Start Center in Catonsville, Md.

President's 1993 Budget Will Include $600-Million Increase for Head Start

By Mark Pitsch

WASHINGTON—President Bush last week announced that his proposed budget for fiscal 1993, scheduled for release this week, will include the largest annual increase ever for the highly touted Head Start program—$600 million.

Appearing at a Head Start center in Catonsville, Md., the President said his budget for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1 will propose that funding for the early-childhood-education and -intervention program be increased to $2.8 billion.

"In Head Start," Mr. Bush said, "we found a government program that works, that works to strengthen communities and families for the future." Head Start's budget has increased 127 percent since Mr. Bush took office in 1989.

But, while Head Start advocates and Congressional Democrats generally praised the President's proposal, they were quick to challenge the Administration's estimates of how much help the increase would bring.

In addition, they noted, even with the increase, the program is still about $5 billion short of what is considered necessary to serve all eligible children.

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Senate Rejects Private-School Choice Proposal

By Julie A. Miller

WASHINGTON—The Senate last week decisively rejected a proposal to allow low-income parents to use federal funds to send their children to private schools.

The 57-to-36 vote, which fell largely along party lines, came during debate on a Democratic education-reform bill. The outcome was a major defeat for the Bush Administration, which had lobbied hard for the $30-million choice program that included religious schools.

The wide margin against the amendment indicates that lawmakers and Administration officials overestimated support for choice. The vote significantly reduces the likelihood that the bill that emerges from the Congress will include private-school choice, observers said.

Six Republicans voted against the amendment, while three Democrats

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Bidders Striving to Make the Grade in 'New Schools' Competition

By Lynn Olson

They range from the powerhouses of the education establishment to principals with a good idea, from corporate entrepreneurs to nonprofit do-gooders.

The Feb. 14 deadline for submitting proposals to the New American Schools Development Corporation is fast approaching. And no one, it seems, wants to be left out of the competition.

NASDC is the private, nonprofit corporation created by American businessmen last July, at the request of President Bush, to help underwrite the design and implementation of a new generation of "break the mold" schools.

The corporation has pledged to raise $200 million for the research-and-development effort. In the first stage of the competition, it will award up to 30 one-year contracts of up to $3 million each.

The result has been the educational equivalent of the search for high-temperature superconductivity: frenzied activity, interrupted by occasional public pronouncements and a fever pitch of excitement.

NASDC officials expect to receive as many as 1,000 proposals. By last week, 327 design teams in 49 states and the District of Columbia had notified the corporation of their intent to submit a bid—a step that NASDC encouraged but did not require.

The letters came from 139 public or private schools, 86 businesses, 64 education associations, 52 universities, 19 school boards, and 16 individuals.

Interviews reveal that bidders range from a list of who's who in education to the relatively obscure.

At one end of the spectrum are such noted educational leaders as Theodore R. Sizer, the chairman of the Coalition of Essential Schools; Howard Gardner, a co-director of Project Zero; and James P. Comer, the director of the School Development Project at Yale University. The three are collaborating on a design with the Educational Development Center Inc. in Cambridge, Mass.

William J. Bennett, a former U.S. Secre-

Continued on Page 28

New Research Finds Little Lasting Harm For 'Crack' Children

By Debra Viadero

The widely held belief that children born to cocaine-using mothers are forming a permanently damaged "biological underclass" may be largely a myth, according to a growing number of researchers in the field.

New studies published in medical and psychiatric journals, and some that are now in press, suggest that, for the most part, young children who were exposed to cocaine in the womb appear to have few impairments distinct from those common among children born of poverty.

These researchers say that while many cocaine-exposed children may require a little extra attention once they reach school, the majority of this population, once labeled a "lost generation," will not require full-fledged special-education services.

"What we are finding is that, over all, these children are not retarded," said Ira Chasnoff, a Northwestern University medical researcher who has followed a group of 300 such children since 1986. "Over all, they're within the normal developmental range, and a great majority—at least 70

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Ky. Commissioner Wins Praise for Energy In 'Toughest Job in American Education'

By Lonnie Harp

FRANKFORT, KY.—Those who wondered how well Commissioner of Education Thomas C. Boysen would fit into Kentucky's closely knit political and social scene may find an encouraging sign in the way his eyes brighten at the mention of the University of Kentucky basketball team.

"It is really wonderful to be there in those moments of frenzy," he says of his experiences as a spectator.

But then, frenzy should be a familiar feeling to Mr. Boysen, the former San Diego school superintendent who a year ago assumed command of Kentucky's six-year effort to revamp its public-school system from top to bottom.

As he walked down the center aisle of the House chamber here this month to deliver his first progress report to lawmakers, Mr. Boysen had already presided over the abolition and rebuilding of the state education department.

The chief strategist and cheerleader for the reform law, he has sought to win the support of superintendents while beginning an unprecedented crackdown on school administrators. And, in the midst of launching programs on assessment, technology, site-based decisionmaking, and un-

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Delegates at a White House conference flatly reject the idea of a national board governing Indian schools.

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A new report recommends that the high-school science curriculum be revamped to a two-year span of core courses and two years of specialized classes.
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Condoms in L.A.
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Driving the Price Up?
Critics charge that a Minnesota law setting a deadline by which districts must settle teacher contracts is resulting in high, and unaffordable, settlements.
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ACROSS THE NATION

NATIONAL

Survey Finds Censorship Attempts Succeed in One-Quarter of Cases

Attempts to censor materials in school libraries occurred in more than one-third of school libraries nationwide over a four-year period and succeeded in more than one-quarter of those cases, a national survey concludes.

Published in the January issue of the American Library Association's *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom*, the study was conducted by Dianne McAfee, a University of Wisconsin professor of library and information sciences. The study was based on a series of questionnaires distributed to more than 6,550 school libraries nationwide.

The survey documented 739 book and magazine challenges between 1987 and 1990. Of the libraries responding, just under 36 percent reported one or more complaints about reading materials for students. Most of the complaints focused on works of fiction, while magazines drew a smaller number of objections. Among the titles most often contested were *Forever*, by Judy Blume, and *The Chocolate War*, by Robert Cormier.

Two-thirds of the challenges were initiated by parents, and nearly 20 percent came from principals and teachers.

Of the disputed materials, 52.3 percent were retained in the library, 21.6 percent were given restricted access, and 26.1 percent were removed.

The study concluded that attempts at censorship were more successful at smaller schools with fewer library employees and no policy governing the selection of materials. Libraries that had board-approved selections policies and more media specialists, and those that received the support of the school or district during challenges, were more likely to retain contested materials.

■ **Less than one-quarter of the public gives President Bush an A or B in his efforts to be the "education President,"** according to a survey conducted for the National Education Association.

About the same proportion—25 percent—gives the President marks of D or F for his education efforts. Results of the national survey were released last week at a Washington press conference to launch the Campaign for New Priorities, a broad national coalition that includes the N.E.A. as well as other unions, advocates for women and children, environmentalists, and current and former public officials.

The coalition used the survey results to illustrate public support for its effort to push for reinvestment of defense-budget money in such areas as education, health care, housing, and the environment.

The survey found that 76 percent of those polled believe the United States is on the wrong track and that 71 percent say the nation needs a President who will move it in a new direction.

Although the respondents gave the President relatively poor marks in education, they showed little agreement about how Mr. Bush could earn an A. The leading recommendations were to cut bureaucracy (23 percent), make schools safer from drugs and violence (21 percent), support higher teacher pay (15 percent), and put more computers and technology in schools (10 percent).

■ **The United States lags behind 16 other countries in the proportion of its infants who have been immunized against childhood diseases,** a report by the Children's Defense Fund asserts.

More children could be immunized at a lower cost to government if states would purchase vaccines in bulk and distribute them to physicians free of charge, the Washington-based advocacy group concludes.

States that bulk-purchase vaccines for their physicians can pay as little as $23.58 for three commonly used vaccines, the same rate that is charged the federal government, the report says. That compares with a retail price of $44.71 for the same three vaccines paid by physicians who then seek Medicaid reimbursement from the 30 states that do not bulk-purchase vaccines, according to the report.

■ **The National Urban League has renewed its call for a "Marshall Plan for America" that would mean an investment of at least $50 billion a year for the next decade to combat the social and economic ills that affect the nation.**

In "The State of Black America 1992," its 17th annual such report, the group issues what it calls an economic-recovery plan for the United States.

While the Urban League's president, John E. Jacobs, acknowledged at a press conference releasing the report that the current recession is revealing "America's dirty little secret" that most victims of poverty are white, the report focuses largely on proposed solutions to social ills that disproportionately affect black Americans.

The nearly 400-page report contains 14 papers on economics, civil rights, and education. The education paper, written by Shirley M. McBay, the president of the Quality Education for Minorities Network, calls for early intervention for African-American children and their parents to ensure their ability to learn; school restructuring; the elimination of tracking; establishment of core competencies in elementary schools; a more rigorous high-school curriculum; a curriculm that "reflects, respects, and values the cultures of all children"; and incentives to attract more black teachers.

■ **A massive lawsuit by schools against manufacturers of asbestos-containing products has been put on hold until later this year.**

The case, which was scheduled to be heard by a jury next month, has been postponed until a three-member federal appeals-court panel can review charges by defense lawyers that the federal district judge in the case acted in a way that may give the appearance of bias.

The judge in question, James M. Kelly of Philadelphia, has been presiding over the class action, which involves more than 35,000 public and private schools and more than 20 former manufacturers of asbestos-containing products, for eight years.

Charles Bruton, a defense lawyer, said that the judge's decision to attend a 1990 conference on asbestos that featured 13 potential witnesses for the plaintiffs has an "appearance of impropriety." Last year, the judge said that while the speakers would not be allowed to testify as expert witnesses, they could still present information to the jury, Mr. Bruton said.

The defense lawyer said that the appellate panel may complete its review this spring. He said that unless either side appeals the panel's eventual ruling, the case could resume with either Judge Kelly or with a new judge later this year.

■ **The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards last week awarded a $1.4-million contract to a consortium led by the Center for Educational Research and Evaluation at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro to establish a group that will act as a research coordinator for assessment issues.**

Researchers from Western Michigan University, Arizona State University, the Professional Examination Service, and LMP Associates will be partners in the technical-analysis group.

Richard M. Jaeger, a professor of educational-research methodology and the director of the center at the North Carolina campus, and Lloyd Bond, also a professor of educational-research methodology at the university and a senior fellow at the center, will serve as principal investigators.

Over the two-year contract, the research group will design pilot studies and field tests of assessment components; conduct studies to address issues of reliability, validity, and fairness; and review and synthesize relevant research.

The technical-analysis group will be advised by a board of outstanding teachers.

The N.B.P.T.S. is developing a system of voluntary teacher certification that is expected to begin during the 1993-94 school year. ■

STATES

State Judge Rules Wisconsin Cannot Censor School Nicknames

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has no authority to censor a school's nickname or symbol, including those that offend American Indians, a Wisconsin judge has ruled.

The case involves Milton High School, whose "Redmen" nickname and symbol prompted a complaint by a local Indian woman. She asked the department of public instruction to review the school's name and symbols to determine if they were discriminatory.

Milton school officials went to court, arguing that the state had no authority in the matter, and Rock County Circuit Court Judge John Lussow agreed.

"It's not in the realm of statutory discrimination," said Jon Platts, the Milton superintendent. "It's basically a matter of local control. We believe it's the local community and school board's decision to make."

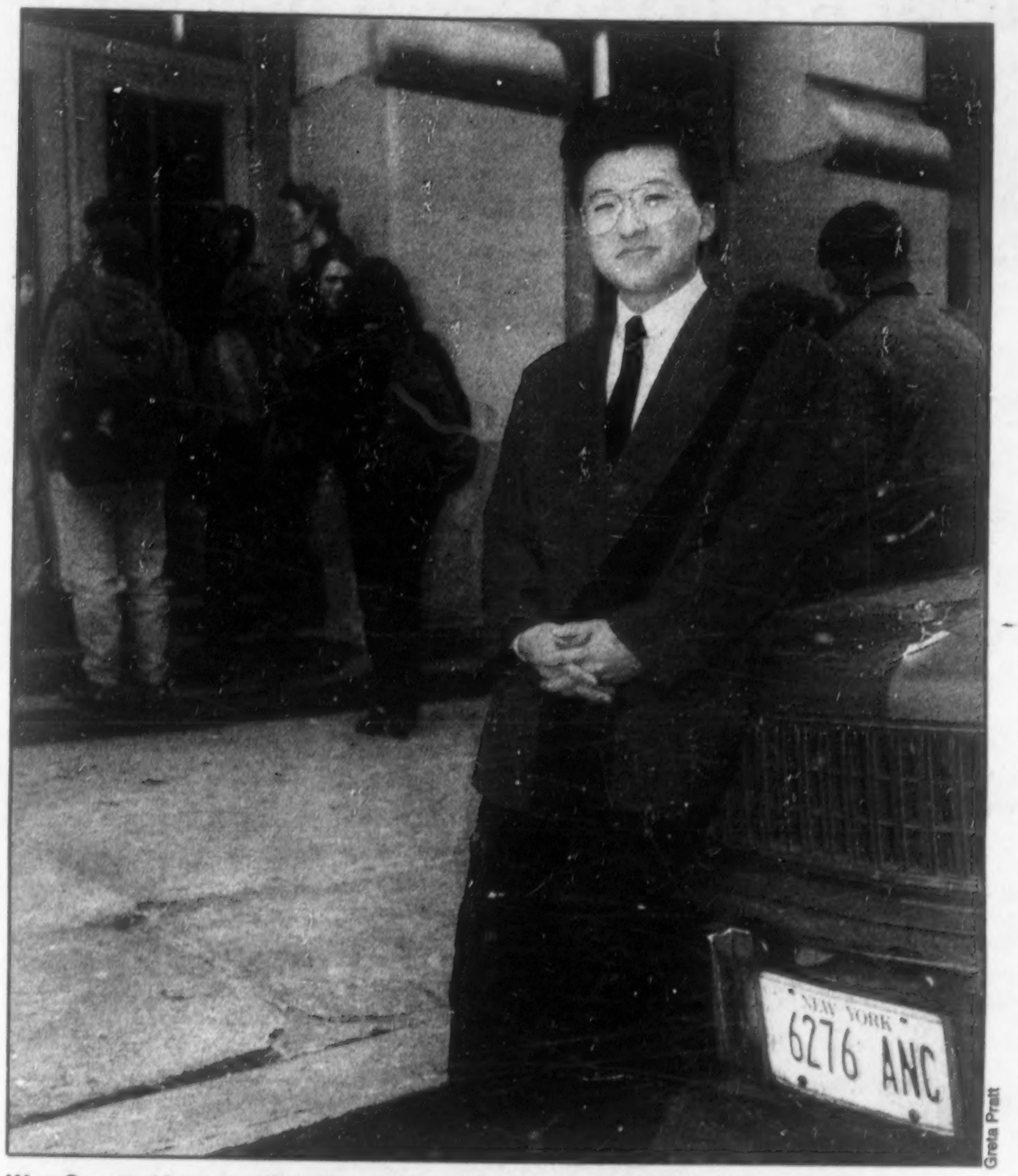
In response to the complaint, Milton High last year abandoned a cartoon caricature of a tomahawk-wielding Indian but stopped short of the action taken by the Verona, Wis., school board, which voted last month to change its Indian name and symbol.

■ **The Georgia Board of Education has proposed exempting from state inspections public schools and school systems that meet the standards of a specific private association.**

The state board voted this month to exempt schools and systems that are accredited members of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools from visits by state education-department inspection teams monitoring compliance with state standards.

State officials said the rule change was made in response to budget cuts that had forced a reduction in the state's school-inspection staff.

State inspectors will continue to monitor the approximately 500 Georgia public schools not accredited by the Southern association. ■



Greta Pratt

Won So, an 18-year-old senior at Stuyvesant High School, will join the New York City school board next month as its first student member.

and I'm a little bit nervous," he admits. "It's a really big bureaucracy, and it's hard to learn in such a short time" all the subtleties of the sprawling system.

But Mr. So remains fairly undaunted about the tasks that lie ahead.

"The students of New York City are like a white shirt with a small black stain on it, and all the attention of the media is focused on this small black stain," he observes. Instead, Mr. So says would like to redirect media coverage to the positive accomplishments of the city's students.

In Brookline, Mass., meanwhile, the school-committee representative, Leah Oppenheim, and her fellow student-government officers are focusing their efforts on struggling to persuade the board to allow semi-restricted condom distribution in Brookline secondary schools.

"It is hard because we're kids," Ms. Oppenheim notes. "A lot of time the 'officialness' of the meeting is frustrating because they just won't let us do what we want."

Not Taken Seriously

What many young board members like these have to offer schools is a fresh perspective and a greater willingness to take risks, according to Ralph Wilson, the president of the National Caucus of Young School Board Members. The caucus, which has approximately 100 members, defines "young" as under 35.

Although most of its members are in their mid-20's, the graduates, like the current high-school students, find that they are not always taken seriously by their constituents, says Mr. Wilson, a 29-year-old who sits on the Natchitoches, La., board of education.

"It's really difficult," Mr. Wilson says, "to seek public office at an early age, when you're single and you don't have children in the school district."

One who was surprisingly successful is 18-year-old Kathy McDonald of Puyallup, Wash. Just five months after she graduated from high school, she employed grassroots savvy and a $50 budget to net a seat on the local board of education last November, unseating an eight-year incumbent in the process.

While working at a Sears store, Ms. McDonald kept a watchful eye on the addresses on her customers' checks. "If I saw someone was from Puyallup, I'd tell them I was running for school board," and then would strike up a conversation, she says.

In contrast to some of her peers, however, Miecha Warwie, the Maryland board member, finds her age and status to be an advantage. "I don't have any political ties to anyone; I don't have anything I owe to anyone," she explains.

As might be expected of young elected officials, many of these youthful board representatives maintain packed schedules, and must learn how to manage their time efficiently early on.

Political Aspirations

In addition to her school-board responsibilities and homework, Ms. Warwie plays soccer in the fall, works in a local video store on weekends, and occasionally testifies before the Maryland legislature and the state board of education on education issues.

Meanwhile, New York's Won So, who holds a black belt in tae kwon do, is president of his school's martial-arts club, volunteers for a charity, and helps out in his father's store during vacations.

He attributes his perseverance to the example of his father, who works 15 hours daily at the fish store he owns. "Watching him, it's hard for me to relax," Mr. So explains.

While many of the young politicos look at their school-board terms as an intrinsically valuable learning experience, some also view their positions as a steppingstone to higher electoral offices.

Mr. So will matriculate at Harvard next fall, where he hopes to study political science, and he dreams of eventually serving as the first Asian-American U.S. Senator from New York.

"I'd love to be 'the education Senator,' " he muses. Although he might have considered a Presidential bid, he is ineligible because he was born in South Korea, and he thinks that "even when I'm 50 or 60 or 70" the country will not be ready for an Asian-American President.

In contrast, Anne Arundel's Miecha Warwie does not see a future for herself either on Capitol Hill or in the statehouse. "I know I don't want to go into politics," she says. "I never really understood before how harsh politics could be. You're always looking for a reason why someone is motivated. . . . I just want to do something where the motivation is good and honest and simple."

What career would she prefer to politics? "I want to be a teacher." ■

Q. What strengths can community foundations bring to child advocacy?

A. [We] take the long view of community need and are focused on gathering accurate information and adapting to current challenges and future issues [and engaging] a cross section of leaders in their communities to do strategic planning and candid problem-solving.

Q. What is the best strategy to secure funding for children's programs in these recessionary times?

A. One that carefully documents the magnitude of the issues facing children and communicates those needs through the media effectively. [Too often], we have given the impression that only a small segment of abjectly poor kids are at risk, when, in fact, the majority of children—extending from those in extreme poverty to the working poor, even into lower- and middle-class families—are jeopardized by a failing public-education system, health system, and lack of affordable housing.

Our charge is to do a far more effective job of framing the nature of those issues.

The coalition is enlisting people like Jay Winston of the Harvard University School of Public Health, who was responsible for designing the "designated driver" campaign, to help prepare a similar campaign around children's issues. ■

DIMENSIONS

Preprimary Enrollment Rates in Western Countries

Preprimary enrollment and enrollment rates, by age: Selected countries, 1987-88

Country	Total enrollment	Enrollment rates in preprimary education				
		2 years old	3 years old	4 years old	5 years old	6 years old
Austria	192,571	1.0	28.5	63.4	92.3	24.1
Belgium	371,509	21.6	94.1	98.1	97.1	2.5
Canada	440,623	—	—	41.4	69.2	10.6
Denmark	51,988	—	—	—	—	96.8
Finland	99,442	20.2	16.0	19.6	24.3	48.0
France	2,518,602	35.7	96.3	100.0	99.8	1.6
Germany, West	1,660,284	9.1	32.3	71.6	86.5	79.5
Greece	155,527	—	9.1	43.2	57.0	1.1
Ireland	142,018	—	0.7	52.1	96.3	52.4
Italy	1,586,850	—	—	—	—	—
Japan	2,016,224	—	15.6	54.6	63.9	—
Netherlands	338,721	—	—	97.9	98.7	—
New Zealand	61,727	8.8	42.6	72.8	0.6	—
Norway	110,981	22.8	31.6	44.1	52.6	64.2
Portugal	104,438	—	—	—	—	—
Spain	1,054,241	4.5	17.8	90.6	100.0	—
Switzerland	132,879	0.6	5.4	18.7	67.1	78.1
United Kingdom	694,000	1.3	25.9	69.2	—	—
United States[1]	6,515,000	—	28.9	49.0	86.7	15.0
Yugoslavia	396,889	19.1	18.5	22.8	35.9	13.1

[1] 1986-87 data

— Data not available

Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

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Foundations Seek To Expand Pool of City School Chiefs

$2.3 Million Earmarked To Help Refill Pipeline

By Lynn Olson

A plan to increase rapidly the number of candidates ready and able to seek jobs as urban superintendents has attracted the support of five major foundations.

"Superintendents Prepared," a joint project of three Washington-based research and consulting organizations, is designed to move 90 highly qualified educators and other professionals into positions as urban school chiefs over the next three years.

It will be supported with more than $2.3 million in grants from the DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, the Pew Charitable Trusts, and the Ford, Prudential, and Rockefeller foundations.

The program, whose announcement was scheduled for this week, is a response to a precipitous decline in the pool of people willing to lead big-city school systems. *(See Education Week, Jan. 30, 1991.)*

In 1990 alone, almost half of the nation's large urban school districts had superintendent vacancies. The average tenure for such chief executive officers is now about two and a half years.

"Unless things change drastically and quickly," leaders of the Superintendents Prepared consortium maintain, "the pipeline [of talented superintendents] will re-

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Bush Speech Focuses on Economy, Not Education

$500-Million Program For Vouchers in Budget

By Julie A. Miller

WASHINGTON—While acknowledging education's importance in improving the nation's competitiveness, President Bush last week proposed no major new education initiatives in a State of the Union Message that focused on economic policy.

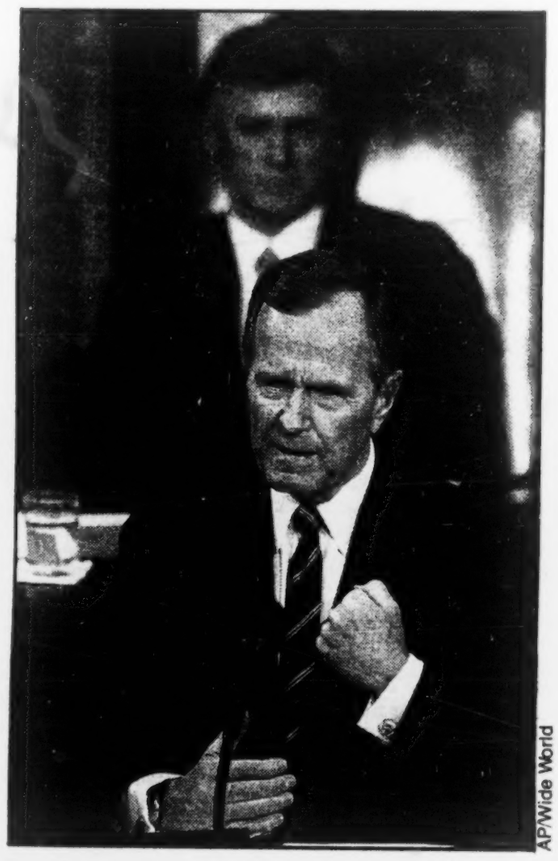
One new education proposal was included in the Administration's budget: a $500-million education voucher plan that would give "low and middle income" parents federal and state funds to enroll their children in private or public schools.

The proposal included in the budget is bolder than the $200-million choice plan the Administration offered last year as part of its America 2000 education strategy. And public-education advocates said last week that it was a peculiar proposal to make just a week after the Senate decisively rejected a much more modest $30-million demonstration project.

"Maybe they had the budget books all printed up, and it was too late to take it out," said Michael Casserly, the acting executive director of the Council of the Great City Schools. "I really don't understand their thinking."

But John W. Sanders, the vice president of the National Association of Independent Schools, suggested that the Administration intends to use the proposal as a campaign issue, arguing that opinion polls show growing support for choice.

"The handwriting is on the wall about family choice," Mr. Sanders said. "The Senate is



AP/Wide World

President Bush delivers his State of the Union Message before a joint session of Congress in the Capitol.

out of sync with the American people on this."

The Senate vote came as part of deliberations on a Democratic alternative to America 2000. Both that legislation and a companion House bill bear only passing resemblance to the Administration's proposal. *(See story, page 21.)*

A plug for America 2000 was Mr. Bush's

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Child Advocates Seek An Ear on Health Care

By Ellen Flax

The emergence of health-insurance reform as a potent national issue gives child advocates a chance to press for changes they have long argued are needed to improve the health status of children.

But making the most of the opportunity will likely take some hard bargaining, they concede.

"Kids are secondary in this," said Alfonso Guida, a public-policy analyst for the Child Welfare League of America. Broader economic and political forces are driving the debate, he and others noted.

Although expansion of health-insurance coverage has been on the agenda of child advocates for years, it is only within the past several months that the issue has moved to a central position on the national political landscape.

President Bush was scheduled to spell out details of his health-reform plan this week. Most of his Democratic challengers in the Presidential campaign have sought to capitalize on the issue, and a plethora of health-insurance proposals are now before the Congress.

But many of these proposals, child advocates say, would do little to ensure that the estimated 12 million children who lack health insurance, and the millions of additional children who are underinsured, receive proper medical care.

Some of the proposals, they note, would only encourage, not require, health-care

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With a Long Track Record on Education, Campaigner Clinton Speaks With Authority

By Julie A. Miller

MANCHESTER, N.H.—The recession has knocked New Hampshire's schools, almost entirely dependent on property taxes, into a state of financial shock. It is little surprise,

ELECTION '92

then, that Bill Clinton is asked about education at virtually every campaign stop he makes in this state.

The local problem is not particularly amenable to a federal solution, but Mr. Clinton eagerly seizes on the opportunity to talk about education.

"I think we need a real education President," he says, taking a shot at President Bush, who claimed the title in 1988. "We need more than photo ops at schools, and rhetoric, and telling other people what to do."

"We need a real education policy," says Mr. Clinton, campaigning in the state that kicks off the Presidential primary season Feb. 18., and he proceeds to outline one: full funding of Head Start, a national apprenticeship program, a college-loan trust fund, a huge investment in adult and preschool education, national testing.

There is nothing new about Presidential candidates touting the importance of education.

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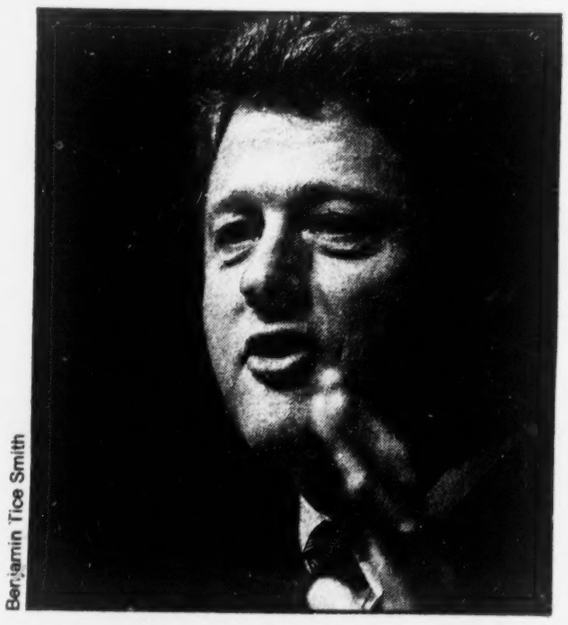

Benjamin Tice Smith

In 11 years as Governor of Arkansas, Bill Clinton has persuaded the legislature to enact a long list of school reforms.

Tex. Court Overturns State School-Finance System for 3rd Time

By Lonnie Harp

The Texas Supreme Court late last week struck down the state's school-finance system for the third time in 28 months, forcing lawmakers once again to develop a new funding plan.

While the court's 7-to-2 decision to invalidate the system was widely expected across Texas in recent weeks, the justices surprised observers by voting 5 to 4 to allow the legislature to wait until next year's regular session to come up with another solution to the problem of funding disparities between rich and poor school districts.

Although the extension will give lawmakers more time to prepare a plan, it is unlikely to change the alternatives, according to legislative aides. Most observers believe that the only options available to the state are either a massive district-consolidation program or constitutional amendments establishing a statewide property or income tax.

The court's ruling decisively struck down the county education districts that lawmakers created last year to combine tax

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A new national coalition is working to limit the influence of the military on public and private schools.

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Gifted elementary-school students face few challenges in standard schoolwork and should be freed from much of it, a new study concludes.
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Few instructional strategies recommended by reformers have been adopted widely, a study by the National Assessment of Educational Progress concludes.
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U.S. Education Department officials say they will reconsider several controversial aspects of federal bilingual-education programs before asking the Congress for new funding. **Page 21.**

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ACROSS THE NATION

NATIONAL

Business Program Offers Career Education in Elementary Schools

Grand Metropolitan P.L.C., a giant London-based food and retailing conglomerate, last week announced a partnership with 11 schools across the United States to boost career education in the elementary grades.

The company's "Kids and the Power of Work," or KAPOW, program will be led by volunteers from Grand Metropolitan's U.S. subsidiaries, which include the Pillsbury Company, the Burger King Corporation, the Häagen-Dazs Company, and Heublein Inc.

The program will combine classroom instruction about the world of work with visits to Grand Metropolitan worksites, said Ian A. Martin, the company's chief operating officer.

"It's a simple concept, but we believe it is substantial in content and impact," Mr. Martin said at a press conference in Washington launching the program.

Deputy U.S. Secretary of Education David T. Kearns lauded the program, saying "this type of partnership will make a difference."

Career-education experts said there are many such programs at the secondary-school level, but that the KAPOW program is perhaps the first to stress the importance of work to students in the early elementary grades.

The KAPOW program initially will focus on 2nd-, 4th-, and 6th-grade students in 10 communities where Grand Metropolitan has facilities, ranging from Burger King headquarters in Miami to an ALPO Petfoods Inc. facilty in Allentown, Pa.

Other schools participating in the program are in Wellston, Ohio; St. Louis; Watsonville, Calif.; Denison, Tex.; Belvidere, Ill.; Teaneck, N.J.; Hartford, Conn.; and Minneapolis. ■

STATES

Arizona Board Weighs Flexibility In 'No Pass, No Play' Regulations

The Arizona Board of Education is proposing more flexibility for its "no pass, no play" rules.

Currently, pupils in grades 7 through 12 and 6th graders in midddle schools may not participate in sports or any other extracurricular activities if they fail any of their classes.

Under the new proposal, students' progress since the previous, failing grading period would be evaluated at the start of the extracurricular activity. Students who were continuing to fail a course would not be eligible; those who were found to be passing would be able to resume activities immediately without waiting to pass the next grading period.

Also last month, the board agreed to reconsider its mandate that all elementary-school students take a foreign language by the 1992-93 school year. The board, which has already delayed implementation of the mandate for one year, cited lack of state funding for the program in its decision.

■ **The Texas Education Agency has approved 82 schools for a program that frees educators and administrators from many state regulations in return for improved student achievement.**

Officials said that more than 1,600 public schools applied for the Partnership Schools Initiative.

Schools selected for the program must submit a student-achievement plan by July and will work with the education agency's regional-service centers over the next three to five years, the T.E.A. said.

Schools will launch their programs beginning with the 1992-93 school year. ■

DISTRICTS

Agreement Reached To End Forced Busing in Stockton, Calif., Schools

Officials of the Stockton (Calif.) Unified School District have approved an agreement that will end court-ordered busing in the district.

The pact between the district and California Rural Legal Assistance, which has represented minority parents, calls for a return to neighborhood schools in the 30,000-student district, which has been under court order since 1977.

The district argues that busing is no longer a viable means of desegregation in the district, which is now 80 percent minority. The new focus on neighborhood schools will alleviate the "harmful effects of racial isolation," the agreement states.

Under the agreement, approved by the school board last week, parents and teachers will form committees at each of the schools on the city's south side to select teachers and administrators.

In addition, most of the $4 million in desegregation funds that go to the district each year would be used to upgrade buildings and replace portable classrooms in the district.

The agreement still must be formally approved by the state superior-court judge who helped in drafting it, school officials said last week.

■ **The state-appointed administrator of the Richmond, Calif., school district has released a five-year financial-recovery program for the troubled district.**

The budgetary plan follows the district's court-approved removal from bankruptcy protection last fall.

According to the plan, the district owes more than $80 million in emergency loans and other long-term debts. These debts, the report asserts, resulted from mismanagement of a costly, intra-district choice plan implemented by former Superintendent of Schools Walter Marks.

According to the recovery plan, the emergency loans—which total more $46 million, including interest—must be repaid within 10 years.

The plan requires the superintendent and school board to develop a manageable budget for the 1992-93 school year and to properly notify employees of budget changes.

The school board must also agree to update the five-year plan each year and develop a comprehensive education plan consistent with the approved financial plan. Should the school board fail to adhere to any aspect of the plan, it will relinquish authority over the district.

Once the board has formally agreed to the recovery plan, the local board will regain the authority state officials removed last year.

■ **Dozens of teachers in Fort Wayne, Ind., may be forced to pay thousands of dollars in "fair share" collective-bargaining dues as the result of a ruling last week by the Indiana Court of Appeals.**

In two separate lawsuits dating back 10 years, the Fort Wayne Education Association has tried to collect the fees—intended to cover the cost of collective-bargaining activities for all employees—from non-union teachers. The fees average about $350 a year.

Last month's ruling reversed earlier deci-

The Lesson of Giving

While official U.S. humanitarian aid to the former Soviet Union is still in the planning stages, a group of Connecticut high-school students has already collected 2,000 pounds of food and clothing to distribute to the needy there.

Loel Barr

Over the past few months, 19 students from Staples High School in Westport, Conn., have collected the goods from area residents and will personally distribute them as representatives of "Youth Ending Hunger," a national nonprofit organization that encourages young people to participate in social service for the disadvantaged.

These junior officers of goodwill will distribute coats and food to elderly pensioners and toys to mentally handicapped children. During their three-week stay this month, they will live with families in Moscow, attend Russian-language classes at English School No. 23, and take in such tourist attractions as the Moscow Circus. The students will also visit a school in St. Petersburg, where they plan to open another branch of the Youth Ending Hunger club.

Hector Guerra, the dean of students at Staples High and a coordinator of the trip, says he is delighted by the outpouring of generosity from the school and the community. AmeriCares, a national nonprofit relief service, lent a hand by arranging to ship the donated goods to Moscow. Mr. Guerra notes that half the food and clothing donated will remain stateside to aid those hardest hit by the recession.

"We are not going simply as tourists," says Mr. Guerra. "Our direct participation will teach the kids about giving—they see who gets the clothes, and realize first hand the needs of the people." —S.K.G.